



## Description

**[0001]** The present invention relates to organic electroluminescent (EL) devices, also known as organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), and particularly to an apparatus, which facilitates forming organic layers in such devices.

**[0002]** In color or full-color organic electroluminescent (EL) displays having an array of colored pixels such as red, green, and blue color pixels (commonly referred to as RGB pixels), precision patterning of the color-producing organic EL media is required to produce the RGB pixels. The basic EL device has in common an anode, a cathode, and an organic EL medium sandwiched between the anode and the cathode. The organic EL medium may consist of one or more layers of organic thin films, where one of the layers or regions within a layer is primarily responsible for light generation or electroluminescence. This particular layer is generally referred to as the light-emitting layer of the organic EL medium. Other organic layers present in the organic EL medium commonly facilitate electronic transportation, and are referred to as either the hole-transporting layer (for hole conduction) or electron-transporting layer (for electron conduction). In forming the RGB pixels in a full-color organic EL display panel, it is necessary to devise a method to precisely pattern the emissive layer of the organic EL medium or the entire organic EL medium.

**[0003]** Typically, electroluminescent pixels are formed on the display by shadow masking techniques, such as shown in US-A-5,742,129. Although this has been effective, it has several drawbacks. It has been difficult to achieve high resolution of pixel sizes using shadow masking. Moreover, there are problems of alignment between the substrate and the shadow mask, and care must be taken that pixels are formed in the appropriate locations. When it is desirable to increase the substrate size, it is difficult to manipulate the shadow mask to form appropriately positioned pixels. A further disadvantage of the shadow mask method is that the mask holes can become plugged with time. Plugged holes on the mask lead to the undesirable result of non-functioning pixels on the EL display.

**[0004]** There are further problems with the shadow mask method, which become especially apparent when making EL devices with dimensions of more than a few inches on a side. It is extremely difficult to manufacture larger shadow masks with the required precision (hole position of  $\pm 5$  micrometers) for accurately forming EL devices.

**[0005]** A method for patterning high-resolution organic EL displays has been disclosed in US-A-5,851,709 by Grande and others. This method is comprised of the following sequences of steps: 1) providing a donor substrate having opposing first and second surfaces; 2) forming a light-transmissive, heat-insulating layer over the first surface of the donor substrate; 3) forming a light-absorbing layer over the heat-insulating layer; 4) providing the donor substrate with an array of openings extending from the second surface to the heat-insulating layer; 5) providing a transferable, color-forming, organic donor layer formed on the light-absorbing layer; 6) precision aligning the donor substrate with the display substrate in an oriented relationship between the openings in the substrate and the corresponding color pixels on the device; and 7) employing a source of radiation for producing sufficient heat at the light-absorbing layer over the openings to cause the transfer of the organic layer on the donor substrate to the display substrate. A problem with the Grande and others approach is that patterning of an array of openings on the donor substrate is required. This creates many of the same problems as the shadow mask method, including the requirement for precision mechanical alignment between the donor substrate and the display substrate. A further problem is that the donor pattern is fixed and cannot be changed readily.

**[0006]** Using an unpatterned donor sheet and a precision light source, such as a laser, can remove some of the difficulties seen with a patterned donor.

Such a method is disclosed by Littman in US-A-5,688,551, and in a series of patents by Wolk and others (US-A-6,114,088; US-A-6,140,009; US-A-6,214,520; and US-A-6,221,553).

**[0007]** In commonly assigned US-A-5,937,272, Tang has taught a method of patterning multicolor pixels (for example, red, green, and blue subpixels) onto a thin-film-transistor (TFT) array substrate by vapor deposition of an EL material. Such EL material can be precoated on one surface of a donor support material and transferred to a substrate by vapor deposition in a selected pattern (as in FIGS. 4, 5, and 6 in the aforementioned US-A-5,937,272).

**[0008]** The EL material transfer is preferably done in a vacuum chamber such as Tang describes in the aforementioned patent and, in particular, vacuum is preferably maintained between the donor and substrate. The donor and substrate must also be kept in close proximity during the EL transfer (less than 250 micrometers between the coating and raised portions of the substrate as taught by Tang). Furthermore, the donor may be in contact with the raised portions of the substrate and thereby maintain sufficient spacing between the coating and the recessed portions of the substrate where the EL material is deposited. In any case, a method of holding the donor and substrate in contact in a vacuum chamber while maintaining vacuum between the donor and substrate is required.

**[0009]** Isberg and others, in commonly assigned European Patent Application 1 028 001 A1, have disclosed the additional use of an adhesion-promoting layer between the donor layer and substrate. While this would help promote the close contact required by Tang, it would be disadvantageous because the adhesion-promoting layer can introduce impurities in the form of the adhesive.

**[0010]** Mechanical pressure, such as that applied by a manual plate, can be used but is difficult to maintain evenly over the entire surface for the micrometer order tolerances needed. Pressure from air or other fluids would work better,

but the use of such pressure is made difficult in that the conditions in the vacuum chamber need to remain undisturbed.

[0011] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a more effective way of positioning a donor element to an OLED substrate for facilitating the formation of one or more layers of organic material.

[0012] This object is achieved by an apparatus for facilitating the transfer of organic material from a donor onto a substrate to form a layer of organic material on one or more OLED devices, comprising:

- a) a first fixture arranged to support the donor and substrate in a relationship relative to one another whereby there will be either a separation between portions of the substrate and the donor, or the substrate and donor will be in contact, and wherein organic material will be transferred onto portions of the substrate;
- b) a second fixture aligned with and engaging the first fixture to clamp the donor and substrate and forming a chamber relative to a non-transfer surface of the donor;
- c) means for supplying a fluid to the chamber to apply pressure to the non-transfer surface of the donor so as to ensure the position of the donor relative to the substrate; and
- d) the first fixture including a transparent portion located in relationship to the non-transfer surface of the donor to permit transmission of radiation through such transparent portion to the non-transfer surface of the donor so that heat will be produced and the organic material will transfer from the donor to the substrate, whereby the transfer of organic material from the donor can be facilitated.

#### ADVANTAGES

[0013] An advantage to this method is that it provides for maintaining a uniform spacing between a donor material and a substrate in an ambient vacuum or vacuum environment and where it is further preferred that vacuum be maintained between the donor and substrate. This provides for suitable clamping in an environment (vacuum) that is advantageous for lowering contamination. A further advantage is that this method can be fully automated including donor and substrate media handling. The present invention is particularly suitable for forming organic layers over a large area having a number of OLED display devices, which are in the process of being formed, thereby increasing throughput.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional representation of one embodiment of an apparatus designed in accordance with this invention;

FIG. 2A is a cross-sectional representation of the aforementioned apparatus in closed configuration with one embodiment of a vacuum chamber;

FIG. 2B is a cross-sectional representation of the aforementioned apparatus in closed configuration with another embodiment of a vacuum chamber;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional representation of a portion of the aforementioned apparatus in closed configuration in greater detail;

FIG. 4 is a portion of another embodiment of the aforementioned apparatus in closed configuration in greater detail;

FIG. 5 is a three-dimensional representation of the aforementioned apparatus;

FIG. 6A is a cross-sectional representation of using the aforementioned apparatus with laser light;

FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional representation of using the aforementioned apparatus with flash light;

FIG. 7A shows one embodiment of the structure of the donor;

FIG. 7B shows another embodiment of the structure of the donor;

FIG. 7C shows another embodiment of the structure of the donor;

FIG. 8A shows a cross-section view of one embodiment of the placement of the donor against the substrate in accordance with this invention;

FIG. 8B shows a cross-section view of another embodiment of the placement of the donor against the substrate in accordance with this invention;

FIG. 9A shows a cross-sectional representation of the transfer of organic material from donor to substrate by one method of treatment with light;

FIG. 9B shows a cross-sectional representation of the transfer of organic material from donor to substrate by another method of treatment with light;

FIG. 10 shows a plan view of the treated substrate; and

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional representation of another embodiment of an apparatus designed in accordance with this invention.

[0014] The term "display" or "display panel" is employed to designate a screen capable of electronically displaying video images or text. The term "pixel" is employed in its art-recognized usage to designate an area of a display panel that can be stimulated to emit light independently of other areas. The term "multicolor" is employed to describe a display

panel that is capable of emitting light of a different hue in different areas. In particular, it is employed to describe a display panel that is capable of displaying images of different colors. These areas are not necessarily contiguous. The term "full color" is employed to describe multicolor display panels that are capable of emitting in the red, green, and blue regions of the visible spectrum and displaying images in any combination of hues. The red, green, and blue colors constitute the three primary colors from which all other colors can be generated by appropriately mixing these three primaries. The term "hue" refers to the intensity profile of light emission within the visible spectrum, with different hues exhibiting visually discernible differences in color. The pixel or subpixel is generally used to designate the smallest addressable unit in a display panel. For a monochrome display, there is no distinction between pixel or subpixel. The term "subpixel" is used in multicolor display panels and is employed to designate any portion of a pixel that can be independently addressable to emit a specific color. For example, a blue subpixel is that portion of a pixel that can be addressed to emit blue light. In a full-color display, a pixel generally comprises three primary color subpixels, namely blue, green, and red. The term "pitch" is used to designate the distance separating two pixels or subpixels in a display panel. Thus, a subpixel pitch means the separation between two subpixels. The term "vacuum" is used herein to designate a pressure of 1 Torr or less.

**[0015]** Turning now to FIG. 1, there is shown a cross-sectional representation of one embodiment of an apparatus 8 designed in accordance with this invention. A first fixture 10 includes base plate 20 which, in this particular example, is an open rectangular plate that has been machined for the features to be described here. Base plate 20 supports donor 32 and substrate 34 and can further accommodate donor 32 mounted to rigid frame 30. Fitted into base plate 20 is transparent portion 26, which can be in the form of a plate as depicted here or other convenient shape. Transparent portion 26 is formed of a material that is transparent to radiation of a predetermined portion of the spectrum and therefore permits the transmission of such radiation. Transparent portion 26 fits into base plate 20 and compresses gasket 22, which fits into a slot that has been machined for it. Transparent portion 26 is held in base plate 20 by means of retaining clamp 28, which is held to base plate 20 by means of screws or other fasteners (not shown). Transparent portion 26, gasket 22, and base plate 20 form an airtight seal. An airtight seal is defined herein as having no fluid leaks or having a sufficiently low leak rate as to not adversely affect the environmental conditions within the vacuum chamber. Base plate 20 has another machined slot, which holds gasket 24.

**[0016]** A second fixture 12 includes plate 38 which, when engaged with first fixture 10 in a manner that will become apparent, clamps substrate 34 and donor 32 to compress gasket 24 and to create an airtight chamber between non-transfer surface 33 of donor 32 and transparent portion 26. Plate 38 is made of a rigid material, such as steel or rigid plastic, and is preferably flat to within the focal depth of a laser.

**[0017]** The open relationship of the first and second fixtures in FIG. 1 facilitates transfer of donor 32 and substrate 34 into and out of apparatus 8. Donor 32 is placed between the fixtures in such a way that it will be supported by first fixture 10. Substrate 34 is placed between donor 32 and second fixture 12. Since donor 32 can be formed from a flexible support, rigid frame 30 can optionally be used as a support for the loading and unloading of sheets of donor 32. In the case of the use of rigid frame 30, base plate 20 will include machined slot 14 for receiving rigid frame 30.

**[0018]** Transparent portion 26 is a material transparent to the impinging radiation and structurally sufficient to withstand a pressure difference of at least 1 atmosphere between opposing sides. One example is an optical BK-7 glass made by Schott Glass Technologies, Inc., which is prepared to be optically clear to laser light. The thickness of transparent portion 26 is determined by its material properties, the pressure difference, and the overall exposed area.

**[0019]** Substrate 34 can be an organic solid, an inorganic solid, or a combination of organic and inorganic solids that provides a surface for receiving the emissive material from a donor and may be rigid or flexible. Typical substrate materials include glass, plastic, metal, ceramic, semiconductor, metal oxide, semiconductor oxide, semiconductor nitride, circuit board materials or combinations thereof. Substrate 34 may be a homogeneous mixture of materials, a composite of materials, or multiple layers of materials. In one preferred embodiment, substrate 34 comprises a matrix array of thin film transistors (TFTs). The substrate 34 can either be light transmissive or opaque, depending on the intended direction of light emission. The light transmissive property is desirable for viewing the EL emission through the substrate. Transparent glass or plastic are commonly employed in such cases. For applications where the EL emission is viewed through the top electrode, the transmissive characteristic of the bottom support is immaterial, and therefore can be light transmissive, light absorbing or light reflective.

**[0020]** FIG. 2A shows the aforementioned apparatus 8 in a closed configuration and enclosed in one embodiment of a vacuum chamber. This is advantageous for certain types of transfer for several reasons: 1) the transfer across a non-contact gap is more effective under vacuum, and 2) some donor materials are sensitive to oxygen, moisture, or other contaminants.

**[0021]** First fixture 10 and second fixture 12 are aligned with each other so that they engage and provide pressure along the perimeter of chamber 40, thus clamping substrate 34 and donor 32, compressing gasket 24, and creating an airtight seal. Together with the airtight seal formed by base plate 20 with gasket 22 and transparent plate 26, chamber 40 is formed to allow pressure to be provided against non-transfer surface 33 of donor 32. Second fixture 12 provides a flat surface that, in the case of irradiation by laser, locates an appropriate radiation-absorbing portion (whose nature

will become apparent) of donor 32 within the focal depth of the laser. Apparatus 8 can be enclosed in vacuum chamber 39, which is kept under vacuum by vacuum pump 41.

[0022] FIG. 2B shows apparatus 8 in a closed configuration and enclosed in another embodiment of a vacuum chamber. This is similar to that shown in FIG. 2A, except that the vacuum chamber is constructed in such a way as to enclose donor 32 and substrate 34 while leaving transparent portion 26 unenclosed. This construction can allow irradiation from a source not enclosed in the vacuum chamber. The nature of such irradiation will become apparent in the further description.

[0023] FIG. 3 shows a portion of apparatus 8 in closed configuration in greater detail, and shows a means for supplying fluid to chamber 40. One or more fluid inlets 42 are formed into base plate 20. They allow the introduction of fluid into fluid passage 44, which conveys it to chamber 40. In the case of apparatus 8 being enclosed in vacuum chamber 39, fluid inlets 42 can include a means of connection to an external fluid supply 46. The pressure differential between chamber 40 (which applies pressure to non-transfer surface 33 of donor 32) and the ambient vacuum causes transfer surface 35 of donor 32 to be pressed against the receiving surface of substrate 34. Plate 38 (which is a part of second fixture 12) provides a flat surface, as previously described, to locate the appropriate radiation-absorbing portion of donor 32 within the focal depth of an irradiating laser. The fluid for pressurizing chamber 40 can be a gas (for example, air, nitrogen, argon, helium), a liquid (for example water or a liquid fluorocarbon), a gas that liquefies under pressure (for example Freon), or a supercritical fluid (for example carbon dioxide). A gas is the preferred fluid. Nitrogen or argon are most preferred fluids. It will be seen that the pressure of fluid in chamber 40 allows a relationship of donor 32 and substrate 34 relative to each other so that a position of direct contact or a controlled separation relative to each other is ensured. It will also be seen that apparatus 8 can be used in other than vacuum conditions, for example, under dry nitrogen atmosphere above 1 Torr, provided that the pressure delivered to chamber 40 is greater than ambient pressure in 39.

[0024] FIG. 4 shows a portion of another embodiment of apparatus 8 in closed configuration in greater detail, and shows a means for supplying fluid to chamber 40 and a means for maintaining ambient pressure between transfer surface 35 of donor 32 and substrate 34. Second fixture 12 includes a recessed pocket that accommodates substrate 34. Donor 32 extends beyond substrate 34 and is clamped against gasket 24 by second fixture 12 when second fixture 12 engages with first fixture 10. This creates first chamber 45 relative to the transfer surface 35 of donor 32 and second chamber 47 relative to the non-transfer surface 33 of donor 32. One or more channels 48 are formed into second fixture 12 and are open to the ambient environment or surrounding environment in such a way that the airtight seal created at gasket 24 is not disrupted. When fluid pressure is applied to second chamber 47, donor 32 is pressed against substrate 34 which, in turn, is pressed against plate 38. Channels 48 maintain ambient pressure conditions on transfer surface 35 of donor 32 and on substrate 34 in first chamber 45 while non-transfer surface 33 is under relatively greater pressure in second chamber 47.

[0025] FIG. 5 shows a three-dimensional representation of aforementioned apparatus 8, showing the relative positions of the various components described. This representation includes optional tooling to facilitate automation.

[0026] In an optional automated method, a sheet of donor 32 mounted on rigid frame 30 is placed in apparatus 8 by an automated means (such as a programmed robot) and lowered into place by tooling 54. The substrate 34 is placed in apparatus 8 by an automated means (such as a programmed robot) and lowered into place by tooling 52. To facilitate the automation of this process, first fixture 10 can be fitted with guide columns 50, and second fixture 12 can be fitted with or formed with bushings 56 that fit over guide columns 50.

[0027] FIG. 6A shows one means of using apparatus 8 with light. Laser 62 emits laser light 60, which is transmitted by transparent plate 26 and selectively irradiates portions of non-transfer surface 33 of donor 32 for the purpose of transferring donor material to substrate 34. If the apparatus is within vacuum chamber 39, laser 62 can be located inside the vacuum chamber (in a construction such as that shown in FIG. 2A) or outside the vacuum chamber (in a construction such as that shown in FIG. 2B).

[0028] FIG. 6B shows another means of using apparatus 8 with light. Flash lamp 64 emits flash light 66, which is transmitted by transparent plate 26 and irradiates non-transfer surface 33 of donor 32 for the purpose of transferring donor material to substrate 34. If the apparatus is within vacuum chamber 39, flash lamp 64 can be located inside the vacuum chamber (in a construction such as that shown in FIG. 2A) or outside the vacuum chamber (in a construction such as that shown in FIG. 2B).

[0029] FIG. 7A shows one embodiment of the structure of donor 32. Donor 32 includes at the minimum a support 72 that is preferably flexible, which comprises non-transfer surface 33. Support 72 has been uniformly coated with organic material 70, which comprises transfer surface 35.

[0030] The support 72 can be made of any of several materials which meet at least the following requirements. The donor support must be capable of maintaining the structural integrity during the light-to-heat-induced transfer step while pressurized on one side, and during any preheating steps contemplated to remove volatile constituents such as water vapor. Additionally, the donor support must be capable of receiving on one surface a relatively thin coating of organic donor material, and of retaining this coating without degradation during anticipated storage periods of the coated sup-

port. Support materials meeting these requirements include, for example, metal foils, certain plastic foils which exhibit a glass transition temperature value higher than a support temperature value anticipated to cause transfer of the transferable organic donor materials of the coating on the support, and fiber-reinforced plastic foils. While selection of suitable support materials can rely on known engineering approaches, it will be appreciated that certain aspects of a selected support material merit further consideration when configured as a donor support useful in the practice of the invention. For example, the support can require a multi-step cleaning and surface preparation process prior to precoating with transferable organic material. If the support material is a radiation-transmissive material, the incorporation into the support or onto a surface thereof, of a radiation-absorptive material can be advantageous to more effectively heat the donor support and to provide a correspondingly enhanced transfer of transferable organic donor material from the support to the substrate, when using a flash of radiation from a suitable flash lamp or laser light from a suitable laser. [0031] A typical OLED device may contain the following layers, usually in this sequence: an anode, a hole-injecting layer, a hole-transporting layer, a light-emitting layer, an electron-transporting layer, a cathode. Organic material 70 can be a hole-injecting material, a hole-transporting material, an electron-transporting material, a light-emitting material, a host material, or a combination of any of these materials. These materials are described below.

#### Hole-Injecting (HI) Material

[0032] While not always necessary, it is often useful that a hole-injecting layer be provided in an organic light-emitting display. The hole-injecting material can serve to improve the film formation property of subsequent organic layers and to facilitate injection of holes into the hole-transporting layer. Suitable materials for use in the hole-injecting layer include, but are not limited to, porphyrinic compounds as described in US-A-4,720,432, and plasma-deposited fluorocarbon polymers as described in US-A-6,208,075. Alternative hole-injecting materials reportedly useful in organic EL devices are described in EP 0 891 121 A1 and EP 1 029 909 A1.

#### Hole-Transporting (HT) Material

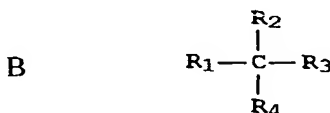
[0033] Hole-transporting materials useful as organic material 70 are well known to include compounds such as an aromatic tertiary amine, where the latter is understood to be a compound containing at least one trivalent nitrogen atom that is bonded only to carbon atoms, at least one of which is a member of an aromatic ring. In one form the aromatic tertiary amine can be an arylamine, such as a monoarylamine, diarylamine, triarylamine, or a polymeric arylamine. Exemplary monomeric triarylaminines are illustrated by Klupfel and others in US-A-3,180,730. Other suitable triarylaminines substituted with one or more vinyl radicals and/or comprising at least one active hydrogen containing group are disclosed by Brantly, and others in commonly assigned US-A-3,567,450 and US-A-3,658,520, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0034] A more preferred class of aromatic tertiary amines are those which include at least two aromatic tertiary amine moieties as described in US-A-4,720,432 and US-A-5,061,569. Such compounds include those represented by structural Formula (A).



wherein Q<sub>1</sub> and Q<sub>2</sub> are independently selected aromatic tertiary amine moieties and G is a linking group such as an arylene, cycloalkylene, or alkylene group of a carbon to carbon bond. In one embodiment, at least one of Q<sub>1</sub> or Q<sub>2</sub> contains a polycyclic fused ring structure, for example, a naphthalene. When G is an aryl group, it is conveniently a phenylene, biphenylene, or naphthalene moiety.

[0035] A useful class of triarylaminines satisfying structural Formula (A) and containing two triarylamine moieties is represented by structural Formula (B):



where:

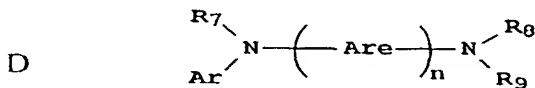
$R_1$  and  $R_2$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, or an alkyl group or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together represent the atoms completing a cycloalkyl group; and

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  each independently represents an aryl group, which is in turn substituted with a diary substituted amino group, as indicated by structural Formula (C):



wherein  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are independently selected aryl groups. In one embodiment, at least one of  $R_5$  or  $R_6$  contains a polycyclic fused ring structure, for example, a naphthalene.

**[0036]** Another class of aromatic tertiary amines are the tetraaryldiamines. Desirable tetraaryldiamines include two diarylamino groups, such as indicated by Formula (C), linked through an arylene group. Useful tetraaryldiamines include those represented by Formula (D).



wherein:

each Are is an independently selected arylene group, such as a phenylene or anthracene moiety;

$n$  is an integer of from 1 to 4; and

Ar,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$ , and  $R_9$  are independently selected aryl groups.

**[0037]** In a typical embodiment, at least one of Ar,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$ , and  $R_9$  is a polycyclic fused ring structure, for example, a naphthalene.

**[0038]** The various alkyl, alkylene, aryl, and arylene moieties of the foregoing structural Formulae (A), (B), (C), (D), can each in turn be substituted. Typical substituents include alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, aryl groups, aryloxy groups, and halogen such as fluoride, chloride, and bromide. The various alkyl and alkylene moieties typically contain from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms. The cycloalkyl moieties can contain from 3 to about 10 carbon atoms, but typically contain five, six, or seven ring carbon atoms, for example, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and cycloheptyl ring structures. The aryl and arylene moieties are usually phenyl and phenylene moieties.

**[0039]** The hole-transporting layer can be formed of a single or a mixture of aromatic tertiary amine compounds. Specifically, one may employ a triarylamine, such as a triarylamine satisfying the Formula (B), in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, such as indicated by Formula (D). When a triarylamine is employed in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, the latter is positioned as a layer interposed between the triarylamine and the electron-injecting and transporting layer. Illustrative of useful aromatic tertiary amines are the following:

1,1-Bis(4-di-*p*-tolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane  
 1,1-Bis(4-di-*p*-tolylaminophenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane  
 4,4'-Bis(diphenylamino)quadriphenyl  
 Bis(4-dimethylamino-2-methylphenyl)-phenylmethane  
 N,N,N-Tri(*p*-tolyl)amine  
 4-(di-*p*-tolylamino)-4'-[4(di-*p*-tolylamino)-styryl]stilbene  
 N,N,N',N'-Tetra-*p*-tolyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl  
 N,N,N',N'-Tetraphenyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl  
 N,N,N',N'-Tetra-1-naphthyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl  
 N,N,N',N'-Tetra-2-naphthyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl  
 N-Phenylcarbazole  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl

4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]biphenyl  
 4,4''-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]p-terphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(3-acenaphthenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 1,5-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]naphthalene  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(9-anthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4''-Bis[N-(1-anthryl)-N-phenylamino]-p-terphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-phenanthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(8-fluoranthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-pyrenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-naphthacenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-perylenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-coronenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl  
 2,6-Bis(di-p-tolylamino)naphthalene  
 2,6-Bis(di-(1-naphthyl)amino)naphthalene  
 2,6-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]naphthalene  
 N,N,N',N'-Tetra(2-naphthyl)-4,4''-diamino-p-terphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-phenyl-N-[4-(1-naphthyl)-phenyl]amino]biphenyl  
 4,4'-Bis[N-phenyl-N-(2-pyrenyl)amino]biphenyl  
 2,6-Bis[N,N-di(2-naphthyl)amine]fluorene  
 1,5-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]naphthalene

**[0040]** Another class of useful hole-transporting materials includes polycyclic aromatic compounds as described in EP 1 009 041 A2. In addition, polymeric hole-transporting materials can be used such as poly(N-vinylcarbazole) (PVK), polythiophenes, polypyrrole, polyaniline, and copolymers such as poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)/poly(4-styrenesulfonate), also called PEDOT/PSS.

#### Light-Emitting Material

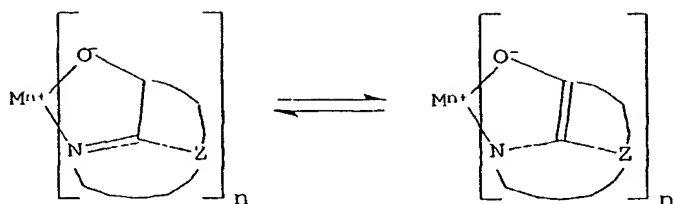
**[0041]** Light-emitting materials useful as organic material **70** are well known. As more fully described in US-A-4,769,292 and US-A-5,935,721, the light-emitting layer (LEL) of the organic EL element comprises a luminescent or fluorescent material where electroluminescence is produced as a result of electron-hole pair recombination in this region. The light-emitting layer can be comprised of a single material, but more commonly consists of two or more components, for example, a host material doped with a guest compound, or compounds where light emission comes primarily from the dopant and can be of any color. The host materials in the light-emitting layer can be an electron-transporting material, as defined below, a hole-transporting material, as defined above, or another material that supports hole-electron recombination. The dopant is usually chosen from highly fluorescent dyes, but phosphorescent compounds, for example, transition metal complexes as described in WO 98/55561, WO 00/18851, WO 00/57676, and WO 00/70655 are also useful. Dopants are typically coated as 0.01 to 10 % by weight into the host material.

**[0042]** An important relationship for choosing a dye as a dopant is a comparison of the bandgap potential which is defined as the energy difference between the highest occupied molecular orbital and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital of the molecule. For efficient energy transfer from the host to the dopant molecule, a necessary condition is that the band gap of the dopant is smaller than that of the host material.

**[0043]** Host and emitting molecules known to be of use include, but are not limited to, those disclosed in US-A-4,768,292; US-A-5,141,671; US-A-5,150,006; US-A-5,151,629; US-A-5,294,870; US-A-5,405,709; US-A-5,484,922; US-A-5,593,788; US-A-5,645,948; US-A-5,683,823; U-A-5,755,999; US-A-5,928,802; U-A-5,935,720; US-A-5,935,721; and US-A-6,020,078.

**[0044]** Metal complexes of 8-hydroxyquinoline and similar derivatives (Formula E) constitute one class of useful host compounds capable of supporting electroluminescence, and are particularly suitable for light emission of wavelengths longer than 500 nm, for example, green, yellow, orange, and red.

E



wherein:

M represents a metal;

n is an integer of from 1 to 3; and

Z independently in each occurrence represents the atoms completing a nucleus having at least two fused aromatic rings.

**[0045]** From the foregoing it is apparent that the metal can be monovalent, divalent, or trivalent metal. The metal can, for example, be an alkali metal, such as lithium, sodium, or potassium; an alkaline earth metal, such as magnesium or calcium; or an earth metal, such as boron or aluminum. Generally, any monovalent, divalent, or trivalent metal known to be a useful chelating metal can be employed.

**[0046]** Z completes a heterocyclic nucleus containing at least two fused aromatic rings, at least one of which is an azole or azine ring. Additional rings, including both aliphatic and aromatic rings, can be fused with the two required rings, if required. To avoid adding molecular bulk without improving on function, the number of ring atoms is usually maintained at 18 or less.

**[0047]** Illustrative of useful chelated oxinoid compounds are the following:

CO-1: Aluminum trisoxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III)]

CO-2: Magnesium bisoxine [alias, bis(8-quinolinolato)magnesium(II)]

CO-3: Bis[benzo(f)-8-quinolinolato]zinc (II)

CO-4: Bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III)-μ-oxo-bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum(III)

CO-5: Indium trisoxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)indium]

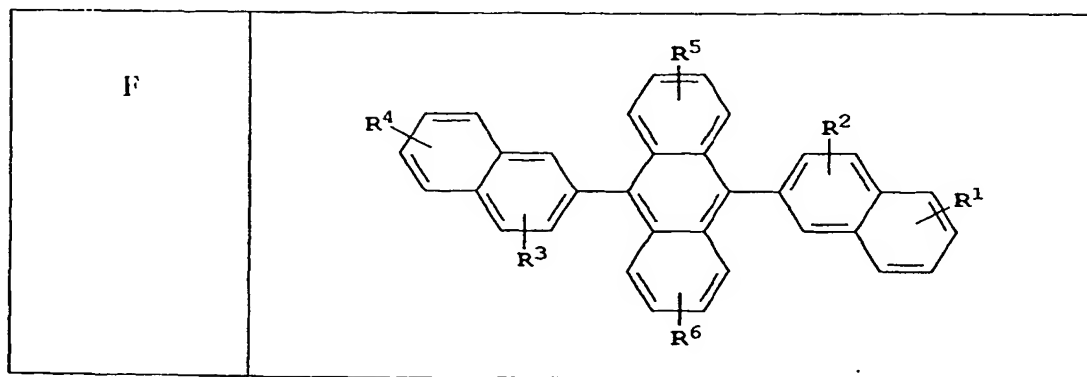
CO-6: Aluminum tris(5-methyloxine) [alias, tris(5-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum(III)]

CO-7: Lithium oxine [alias, (8-quinolinolato)lithium(I)]

CO-8: Gallium oxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)gallium(III)]

CO-9: Zirconium oxine [alias, tetra(8-quinolinolato)zirconium(IV)]

**[0048]** Derivatives of 9,10-di-(2-naphthyl)anthracene (Formula F) constitute one class of useful hosts capable of supporting electroluminescence, and are particularly suitable for light emission of wavelengths longer than 400 nm, for example, blue, green, yellow, orange or red.



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> represent one or more substituents on each ring where each substituent is individually selected from the following groups:

Group 1: hydrogen, or alkyl of from 1 to 24 carbon atoms;

Group 2: aryl or substituted aryl of from 5 to 20 carbon atoms;

Group 3: carbon atoms from 4 to 24 necessary to complete a fused aromatic ring of anthracenyl; pyrenyl, or perylenyl;

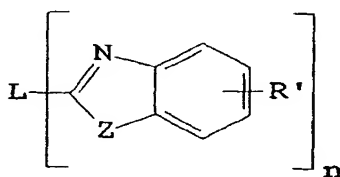
Group 4: heteroaryl or substituted heteroaryl of from 5 to 24 carbon atoms as necessary to complete a fused heteroaromatic ring of furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, quinoliny, or other heterocyclic systems;

Group 5: alkoxyamino, alkylamino, or arylamino of from 1 to 24 carbon atoms; and

Group 6: fluorine, chlorine, bromine or cyano.

**[0049]** Benzazole derivatives (Formula G) constitute another class of useful hosts capable of supporting electroluminescence, and are particularly suitable for light emission of wavelengths longer than 400 nm, for example, blue, green, yellow, orange or red.

G



wherein:

n is an integer of 3 to 8;

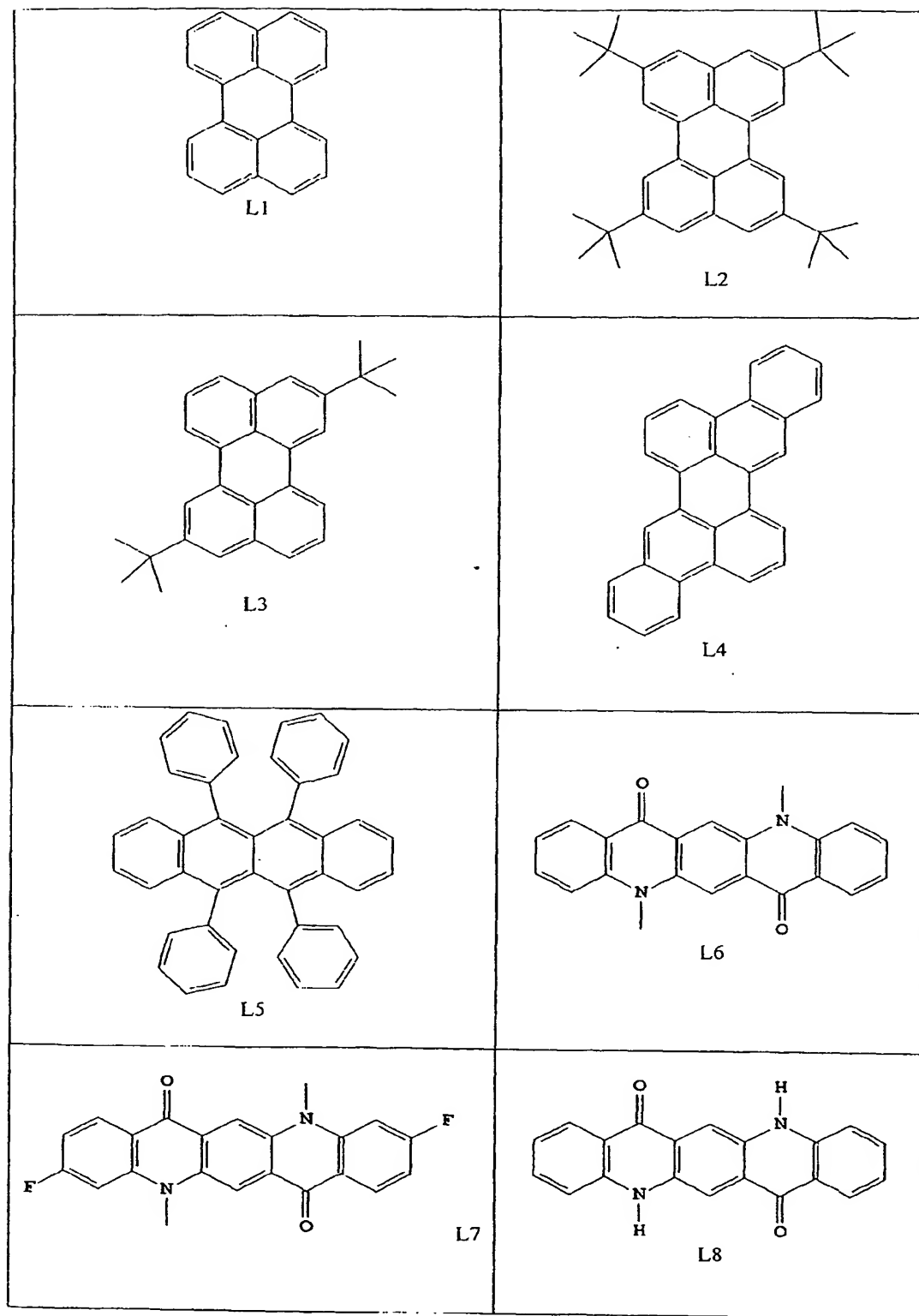
Z is O, NR or S;

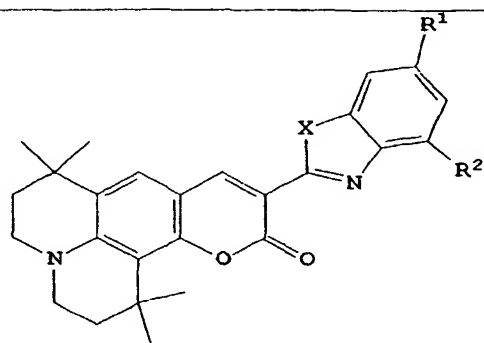
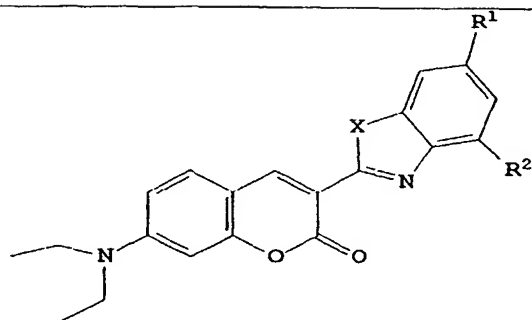
R' is hydrogen; alkyl of from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, for example, propyl, t-butyl, heptyl, and the like; aryl or heteroatom substituted aryl of from 5 to 20 carbon atoms, for example, phenyl and naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, quinoliny and other heterocyclic systems; or halo such as chloro, fluoro; or atoms necessary to complete a fused aromatic ring; and

L is a linkage unit consisting of alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl, which conjugately or unconjugately connects the multiple benzazoles together.

**[0050]** An example of a useful benzazole is 2, 2', 2''-(1,3,5-phenylene)tris[1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole].

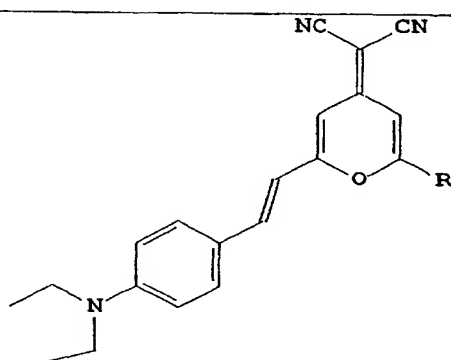
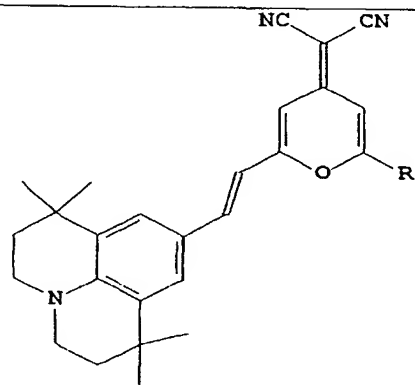
**[0051]** Desirable fluorescent dopants include derivatives of anthracene, tetracene, xanthene, perylene, rubrene, coumarin, rhodamine, quinacridone, dicyanomethylenepyran compounds, thiopyran compounds, polymethine compounds, pyrilium and thiapyrilium compounds, and carbostyryl compounds. Illustrative examples of useful dopants include, but are not limited to, the following:





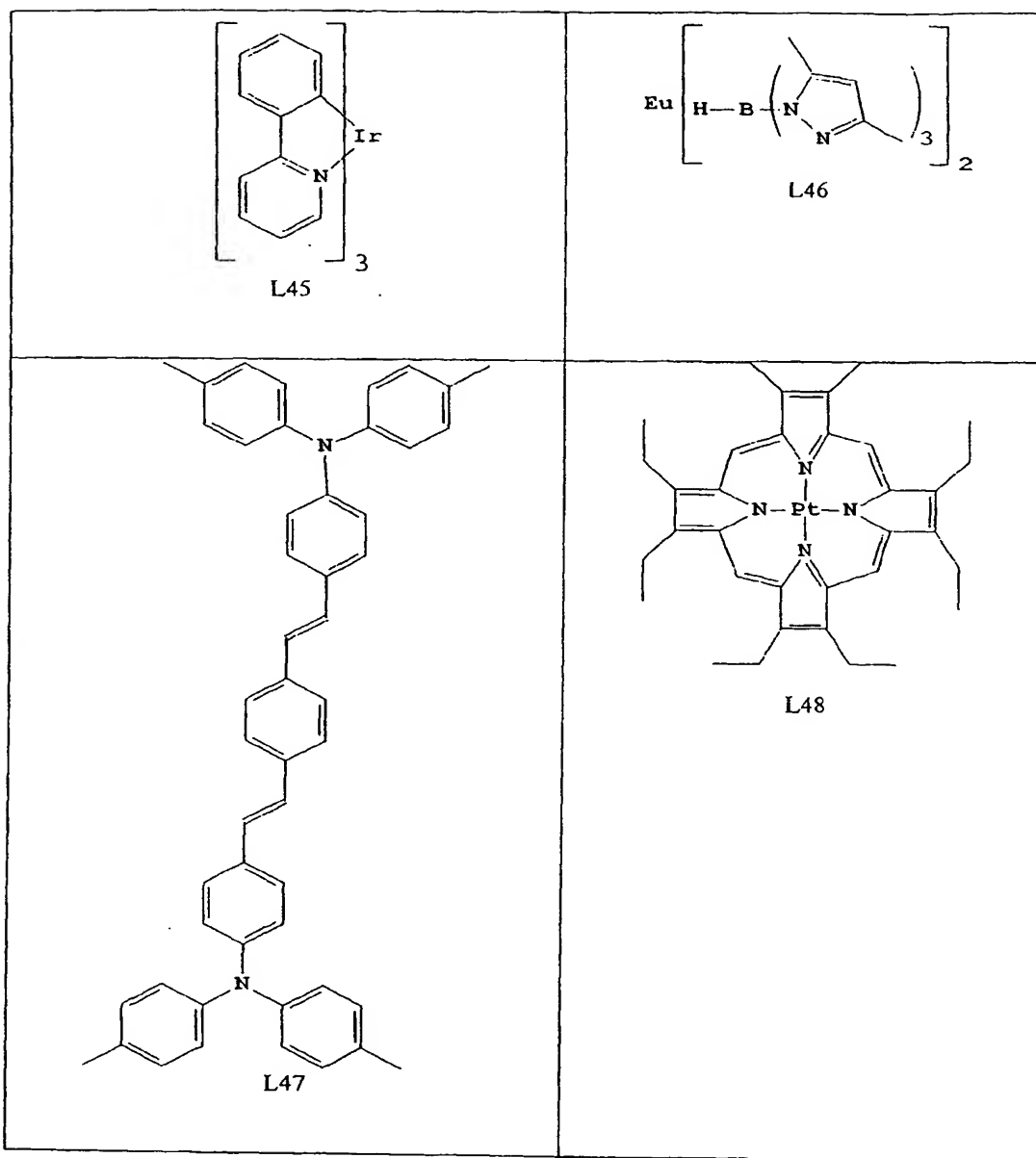
	<u>X</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>
L9	O	H	H
L10	O	H	Methyl
L11	O	Methyl	H
L12	O	Methyl	Methyl
L13	O	H	t-butyl
L14	O	t-butyl	H
L15	O	t-butyl	t-butyl
L16	S	H	H
L17	S	H	Methyl
L18	S	Methyl	H
L19	S	Methyl	Methyl
L20	S	H	t-butyl
L21	S	t-butyl	H
L22	S	t-butyl	t-butyl

	<u>X</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>
L23	O	H	H
L24	O	H	Methyl
L25	O	Methyl	H
L26	O	Methyl	Methyl
L27	O	H	t-butyl
L28	O	t-butyl	H
L29	O	t-butyl	t-butyl
L30	S	H	H
L31	S	H	Methyl
L32	S	Methyl	H
L33	S	Methyl	Methyl
L34	S	H	t-butyl
L35	S	t-butyl	H
L36	S	t-butyl	t-butyl



	<u>R</u>
L37	phenyl
L38	methyl
L39	t-butyl
L40	mesityl

	<u>R</u>
L41	phenyl
L42	methyl
L43	t-butyl
L44	mesityl



[0052] Other organic emissive materials can be polymeric substances, for example, polyphenylenevinylene derivatives, dialkoxy-polyphenylenevinylenes, poly-para-phenylene derivatives, and polyfluorene derivatives, as taught by Wolk and others in commonly assigned US-A-6,194,119 B1, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

#### Electron-Transporting (ET) Material

[0053] Preferred electron-transporting materials for use in organic EL devices of this invention are metal chelated oxinoid compounds, including chelates of oxine itself (also commonly referred to as 8-quinolinol or 8-hydroxyquinoline). Such compounds help to inject and transport electrons and exhibit both high levels of performance and are readily fabricated in the form of thin films. Exemplary of contemplated oxinoid compounds are those satisfying structural Formula (E), previously described.

[0054] Other electron-transporting materials include various butadiene derivatives as disclosed in US-A-4,356,429 and various heterocyclic optical brighteners as described in US-A-4,539,507. Benzazoles satisfying structural Formula

(G) are also useful electron-transporting materials.

**[0055]** Other electron-transporting materials can be polymeric substances, for example, polyphenylenevinylene derivatives, poly-para-phenylene derivatives, polyfluorene derivatives, polythiophenes, polyacetylenes, and other conductive polymeric organic materials such as those listed in *Handbook of Organic Conductive Molecules and Polymers*, Vols. 1-4, H.S. Nalwa, ed., John Wiley and Sons, Chichester (1997).

**[0056]** In some instances, a single layer can serve the function of supporting both light emission and electron transportation, and will therefore include emissive material and electron-transporting material.

**[0057]** Donor **32** must also include a radiation-absorbing material, which is, in this embodiment, incorporated into organic material **70** or support **72**. Radiation-absorbing material can be a dye such as the dyes specified in US-A-5,578,416, a pigment such as carbon, or a metal such as nickel, titanium, and so forth.

**[0058]** FIG. 7B shows another embodiment of the structure of donor **32**. In this embodiment, support **72** is first uniformly coated with radiation-absorbing material **74** capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum to produce heat, then coated with organic material **70**. Support **72** then comprises non-transfer surface **33** and organic material **70** comprises transfer surface **35**. Radiation-absorbing material **74** is capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum and producing heat. Radiation-absorbing material **74** can be a dye such as the dyes specified in US-A-5,578,416, a pigment such as carbon, or a metal such as nickel, chromium, titanium, and so forth.

**[0059]** FIG. 7C shows another embodiment of the structure of donor **32**. In this embodiment, support **72** is first coated with radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76** capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum to produce heat, then with organic material **70**. Support **72** then comprises non-transfer surface **33** and organic material **70** comprises transfer surface **35**. Radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76** includes radiation-absorbing material capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum and producing heat.

**[0060]** FIG. 8A shows a cross-section view of one embodiment of the placement of donor **32** against substrate **34** in accordance with this invention. In this embodiment, receiving surface **106** of substrate **34** is uneven due to the presence of thin-film transistors **100**. Thin-film transistors **100** are separated in substrate **34** by raised surface portions **102** as a result of the multilayer construction of each pixel or subpixel. This is described by Tang in commonly assigned US-A-5,937,272, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The presence of raised surface portions **102** maintains the separation of gap **104** against the pressure that is exerted by the pressurizing fluid against non-transfer surface **33** and maintains a separation between portions of donor **32** and substrate **34**.

**[0061]** FIG. 8B shows a cross-section view of another embodiment of the placement of donor **32** against substrate **34** in accordance with this invention. In this embodiment, transfer surface **35** of donor **32** is held in full contact with substrate **34** by the pressure that is exerted by the pressurizing fluid against non-transfer surface **33**.

**[0062]** FIG. 9A shows a cross-sectional representation of the transfer of organic material **70** from donor **32** to portions of substrate **34** across gap **92** by one method of treatment with light. In this embodiment, donor **32** has been prepared with radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76**. Flash light **66** irradiates non-transfer surface **33**. Heat **110** is produced when flash light **66** strikes radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76**. This heats organic material **70** in the immediate vicinity of radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76**. In this embodiment, only a portion of the light impinging on donor **32** (that is, that which impinges directly on radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76**) will be converted to heat. Some or all of the heated portion of organic material **70** is sublimed, vaporized, or ablated and becomes transferred organic material **112** on receiving surface **106** of substrate **34** in a patterned transfer.

**[0063]** FIG. 9B shows a cross-sectional representation of the transfer of organic material **70** from donor **32** to portions of substrate **34** by another method of treatment with light. In this embodiment, donor **32** has been prepared with radiation-absorbing material **74** and gap **104** is maintained by the structure of thin-film transistors **100** and raised surface portions **102**. A pattern of laser light **60** irradiates non-transfer surface **33**. Heat **110** is produced when laser light **60** strikes radiation-absorbing material **74**. This heats organic material **70** in the immediate vicinity of laser light **60**. In this embodiment, a large portion of the light impinging on donor **32** will be converted to heat, but this will only happen at selectively irradiated portions of donor **32**. Some or all of the heated portion of organic material **70** is sublimed, vaporized, or ablated and becomes transferred organic material **112** on receiving surface **106** of substrate **34** in a patterned transfer.

**[0064]** Turning now to FIG. 10, and referring also to FIG. 9A, and 9B, there is shown a plan view of treated substrate **82**, which has been treated in the manner described in this invention. Predetermined portions of organic material **70** have been transferred to substrate **34** in transferred pattern **80**. Transferred pattern **80** has been formed in a manner consistent with the end-use of treated substrate **82** (for example, transferred pattern **80** is of an OLED light-emissive material that has been transferred to the positions of existing thin-film transistors on substrate **34**). Transferred pattern **80** reflects the method used to prepare it (for example, radiation-absorbing patterned layer **76** in FIG. 9A or the pattern of laser light **60** irradiation in FIG. 9B).

**[0065]** It shall be understood that first fixture **10** can be arranged to be in a position to perform some or all of the functions of second fixture **12**, and second fixture **12** can perform some or all of the functions of first fixture **10**. Turning

now to FIG. 11, there is shown a cross-sectional representation of another embodiment of an apparatus 8 designed in accordance with this invention. A second fixture 12 in this embodiment includes plate 38. Plate 38 is made of a rigid material, such as steel or rigid plastic, and is flat to within the focal depth of a laser. Second fixture 12 is arranged in such a way that it will support substrate 34 and donor 32.

[0066] The open relationship of the first and second fixtures in FIG. 11 facilitates transfer of donor 32 and substrate 34 into and out of apparatus 8. Substrate 34 is placed between the fixtures in such a way that it will be supported by second fixture 12. Donor 32 is placed onto substrate 34 and second fixture 12. Since donor 32 can be formed from a flexible support, rigid frame 30 can optionally be used as a support for the mounting of sheets of donor 32 in the loading and unloading thereof

[0067] Other features of the invention are included below.

[0068] The apparatus wherein the donor is formed in a sheet.

[0069] The apparatus further including a rigid frame for mounting the donor sheet and wherein the first fixture includes means for receiving the rigid frame for positioning the donor sheet relative to the substrate.

[0070] The apparatus wherein the radiation is provided by laser light and such light is directed through the transparent portion in a pattern which will cause the appropriate transfer of the organic material to the substrate.

[0071] The apparatus wherein the organic material includes a hole-injecting material, a hole-transporting material, an electron-transporting material, an emissive material, or combination thereof.

[0072] The apparatus wherein the organic material includes at least two components, one of which is a host material.

[0073] The apparatus wherein the radiation-absorbing material is in the form of a patterned layer selected to cause a patterned transfer of organic material.

[0074] The apparatus wherein the second fixture defines channels which are open to the surrounding environment so as to maintain ambient pressure on the transfer surface of the donor.

[0075] The apparatus further including a vacuum chamber and wherein the apparatus is provided in such vacuum chamber.

[0076] The apparatus wherein the donor is formed in a sheet.

[0077] The apparatus further including a rigid frame for mounting the donor sheet and wherein the first fixture includes means for receiving the rigid frame for positioning the donor sheet relative to the substrate.

[0078] A method of transferring organic material from a donor onto a substrate to form a layer of organic material on one or more OLED devices, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a donor and a substrate, the donor including radiation-absorbing material capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum for producing heat which will cause the transfer of organic material;
- b) positioning such donor and substrate in a relationship relative to one another whereby there will be either a separation between portions of the substrate and the donor, or the substrate and the donor will be in contact, and wherein organic material will be transferred onto portions of the substrate;
- c) clamping the donor and substrate to form a chamber relative to a non-transfer surface of the donor;
- d) supplying a fluid to the chamber to apply pressure to the non-transfer surface of the donor so as to ensure the position of the donor relative to the substrate; and
- e) transmitting radiation in the predetermined portion of the spectrum to the donor so that such radiation is absorbed by the radiation-absorbing material to produce heat which causes the transfer of organic material from the donor to the substrate.

## Claims

1. Apparatus for permitting the transfer of organic material from a donor onto a substrate to form a layer of organic material on one or more OLED devices, comprising:

- a) a first fixture arranged to support the donor and substrate in a relationship relative to one another whereby there will be either a separation between portions of the substrate and the donor, or the substrate and donor will be in contact, and wherein organic material will be transferred onto portions of the substrate;
- b) a second fixture aligned with and engaging the first fixture to clamp the donor and substrate and forming a chamber relative to a non-transfer surface of the donor;
- c) means for supplying a fluid to the chamber to apply pressure to the non-transfer surface of the donor so as to ensure the position of the donor relative to the substrate; and
- d) the first fixture including a transparent portion located in relationship to the non-transfer surface of the donor to permit transmission of radiation through such transparent portion to the non-transfer surface of the donor so that heat will be produced and the organic material will transfer from the donor to the substrate.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fluid is a gas or liquid.
3. Apparatus for permitting the transfer of organic material from a donor onto a substrate to form a layer of organic material on one or more OLED devices, comprising:

- a) the donor including radiation-absorbing material capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum for producing heat which will cause the transfer of organic material;
- b) a first fixture arranged to support the donor and substrate in a relationship relative to one another whereby there will be either a separation between portions of the substrate and the donor, or the substrate and donor will be in contact, and wherein organic material will be transferred onto portions of the substrate;
- c) a second fixture aligned with and engaging the first fixture to clamp the donor and substrate and forming a chamber relative to a non-transfer surface of the donor;
- d) means for providing an airtight seal around the perimeter of the chamber;
- e) means for supplying a fluid to the chamber to apply pressure to the non-transfer surface of the donor so as to ensure the position of the donor relative to the substrate; and
- f) the first fixture including a transparent portion located in relationship to the non-transfer surface of the donor to permit transmission of radiation through such transparent portion and the non-transfer surface of the donor to the radiation-absorbing material so that heat will be produced in such material and the organic material will transfer from the donor to the substrate.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the radiation is provided by laser light and such light is directed through the transparent portion in a pattern which will cause the appropriate transfer of the organic material to the substrate.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the organic material includes a hole-injecting material, a hole-transporting material, an electron-transporting material, a light-emitting material, a host material, or combination thereof.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the organic material comprises components to make a light-emitting layer including at least one host material and at least one light-emitting material.

7. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the radiation-absorbing material is in the form of a patterned layer selected to cause a patterned transfer of organic material.

8. The apparatus of claim 3 further including a vacuum chamber and wherein the apparatus is provided in such vacuum chamber.

9. Apparatus for permitting the transfer of organic material from a donor onto a substrate to form a layer of organic material on one or more OLED devices, comprising:

- a) the donor including radiation-absorbing material capable of absorbing radiation in a predetermined portion of the spectrum for producing heat which will cause the transfer of organic material;
- b) a first fixture arranged to support the donor and substrate in a relationship relative to one another whereby there will be either a separation between portions of the substrate and the donor, or the substrate and donor will be in contact, and wherein organic material will be transferred onto portions of the substrate;
- c) a second fixture aligned with and engaging the first fixture to clamp the donor and forming a first chamber relative to the transfer surface of the donor and a second chamber relative to the non-transfer surface of the donor;
- d) means for providing an airtight seal around the perimeter of the first and second chambers;
- e) means for supplying a fluid to the second chamber to apply pressure to the non-transfer surface of the donor so as to ensure the position of the donor relative to the substrate; and
- f) the first fixture including a transparent portion located in relationship to the non-transfer surface of the donor to permit transmission of radiation through such transparent portion and the non-transfer surface of the donor to the radiation-absorbing material so that heat will be produced in such material and the organic material will transfer from the donor to the substrate.

10. A method for transferring organic material from a donor onto a substrate to form a layer of organic material on one or more OLED devices, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a donor and a substrate and positioning such donor and substrate in a relationship relative to one

## EP 1 321 303 A1

another whereby there will be either a separation between portions of the substrate and the donor, or the substrate and donor will be in contact, and wherein organic material will be transferred onto portions of the substrate;

b) clamping the donor and substrate to form a chamber relative to a non-transfer surface of the donor;

c) supplying a fluid to the chamber to apply pressure to the non-transfer surface of the donor so as to ensure the position of the donor relative to the substrate; and

d) transmitting radiation to the non-transfer surface of the donor so that heat will be produced and the organic material will transfer from the donor to the substrate.

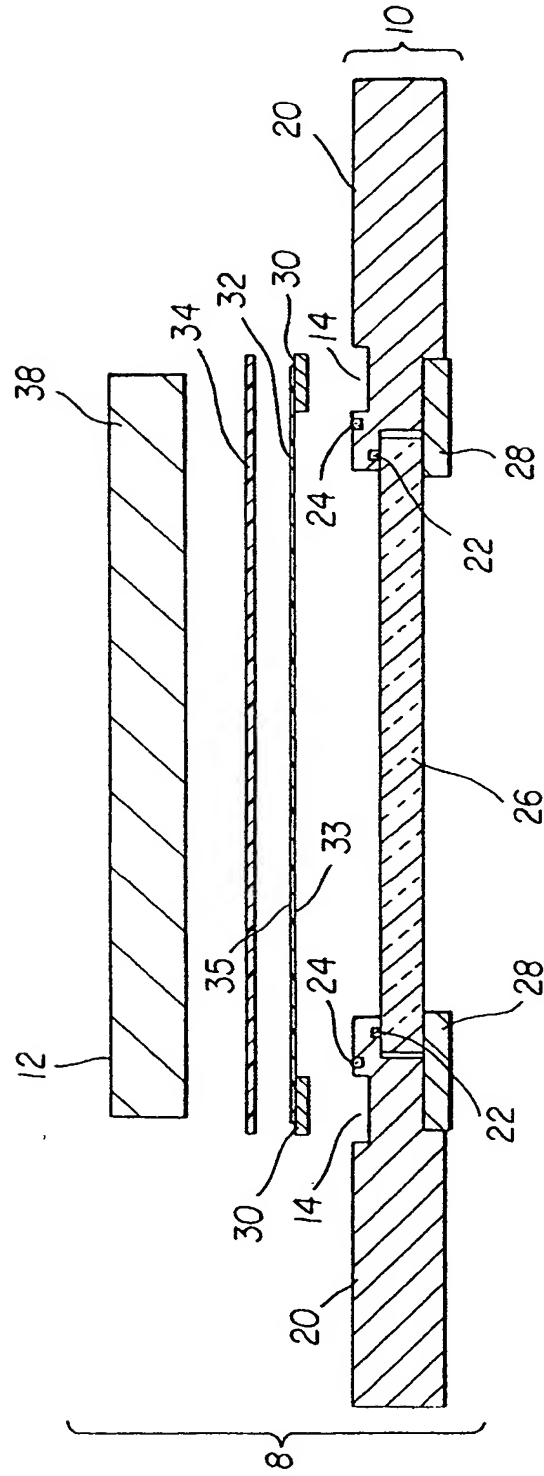


FIG. 1

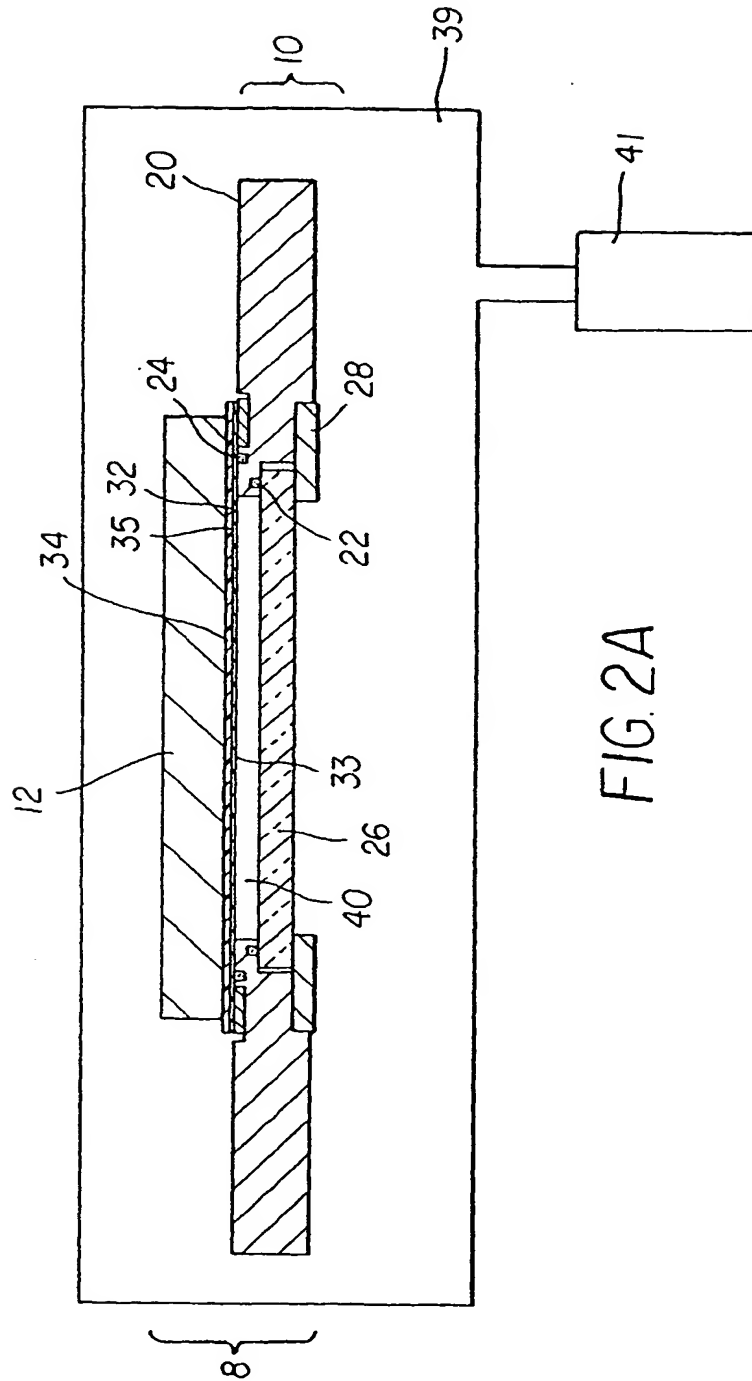


FIG. 2A

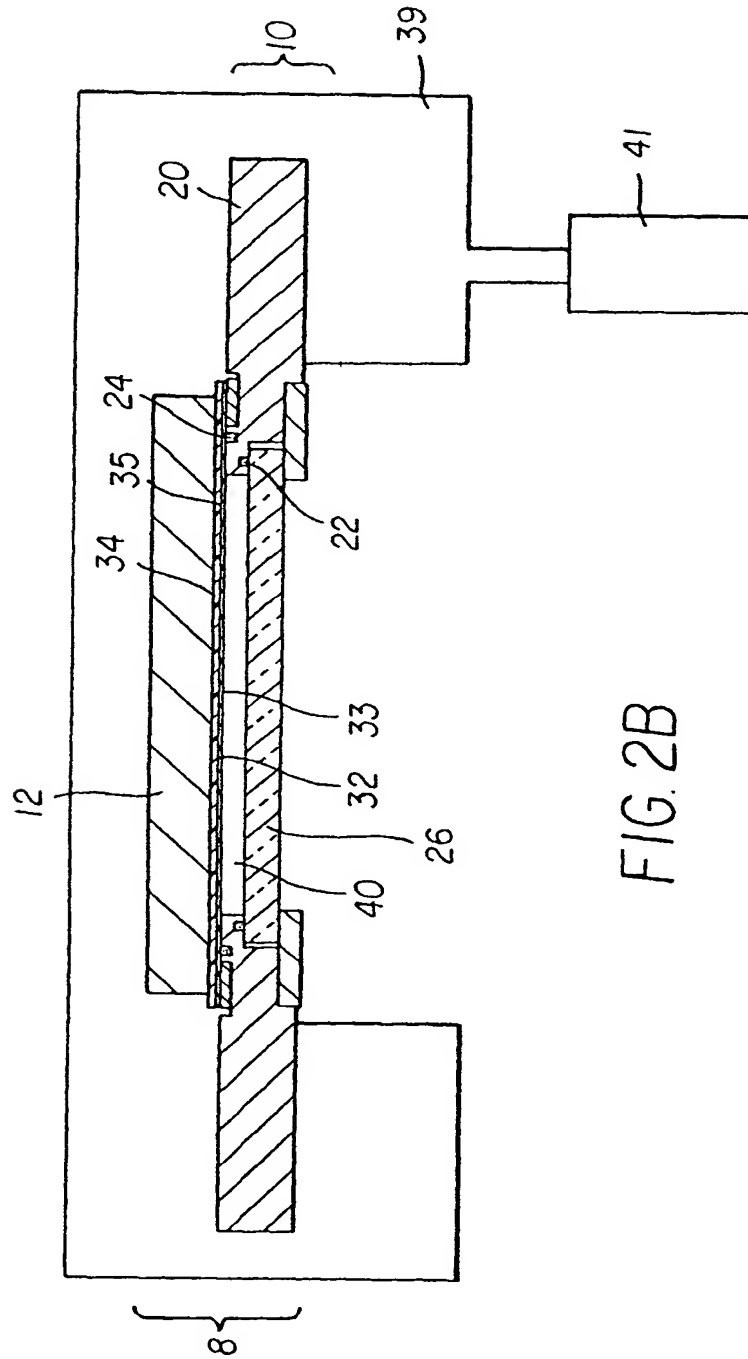
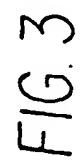


FIG. 2B



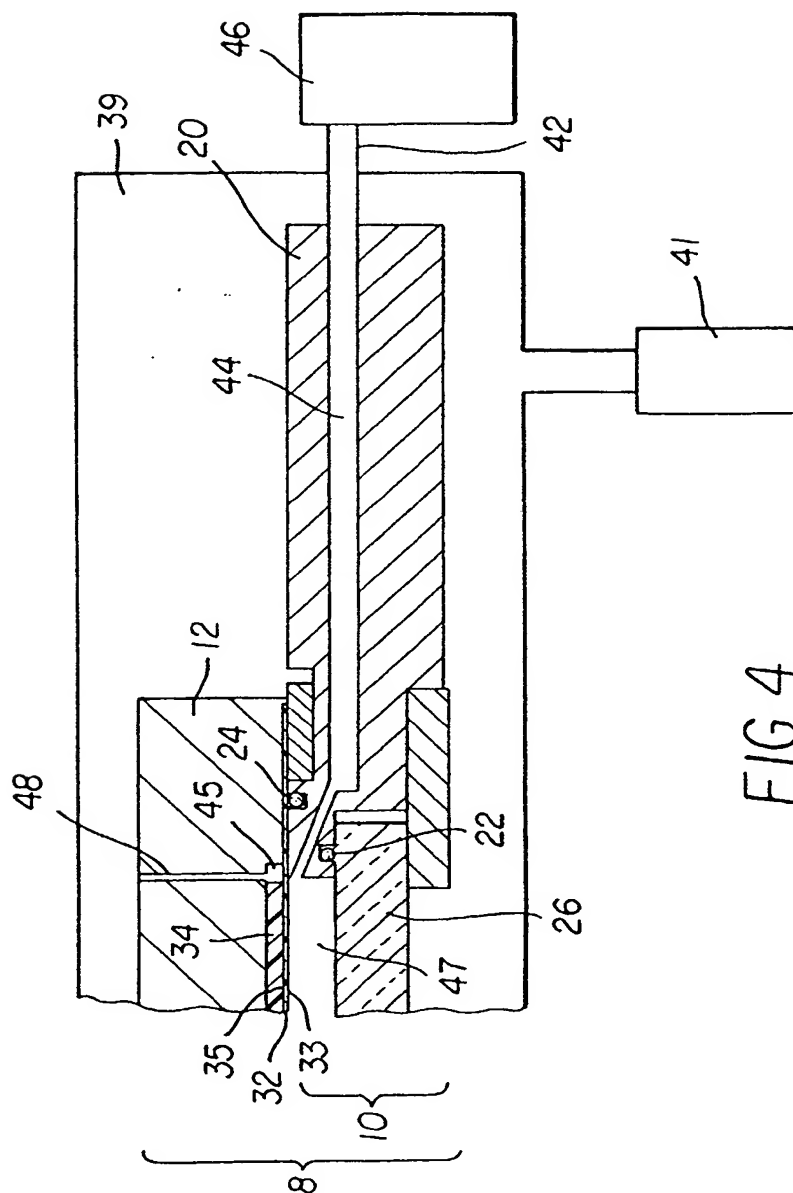


FIG. 4

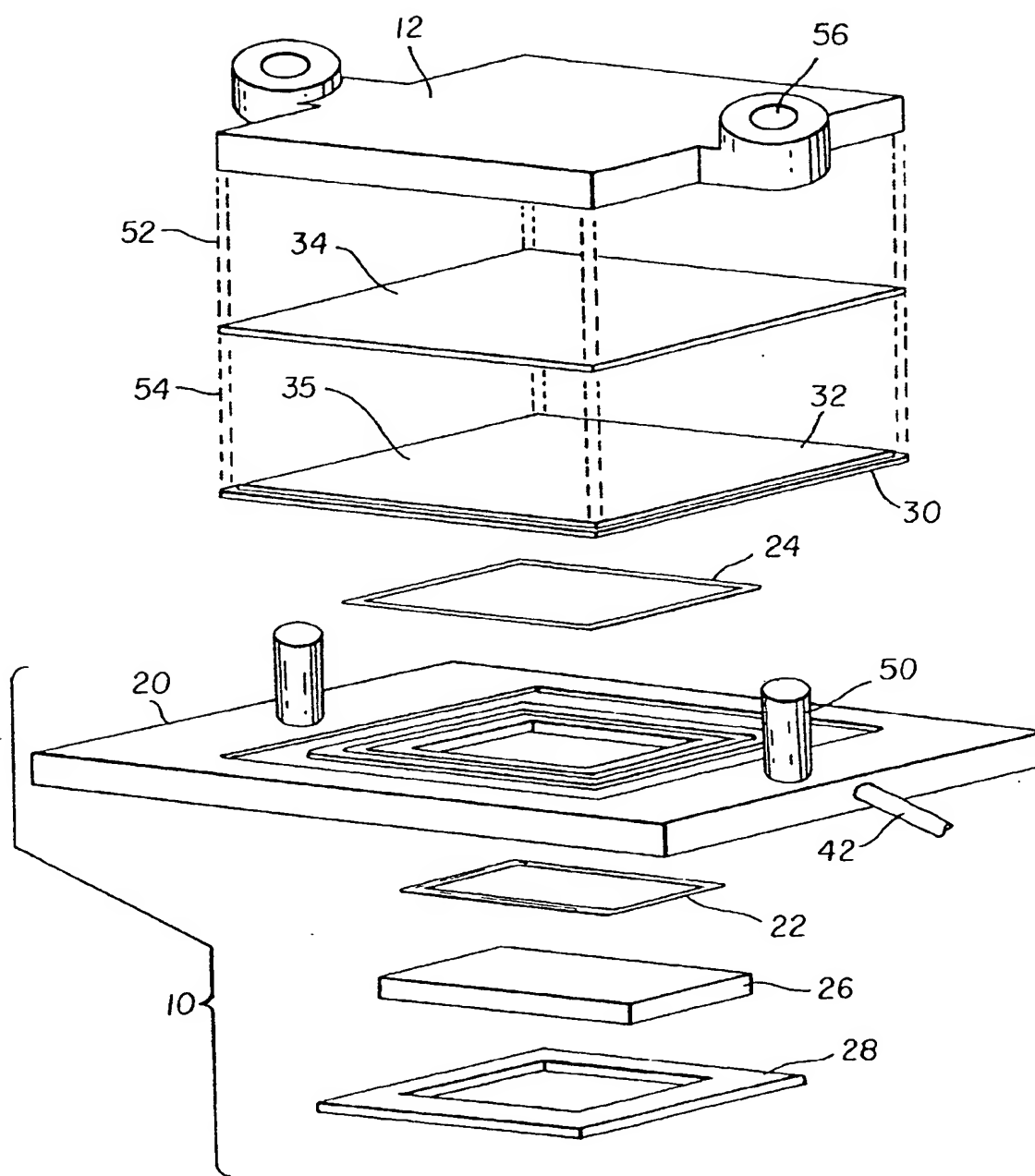


FIG. 5

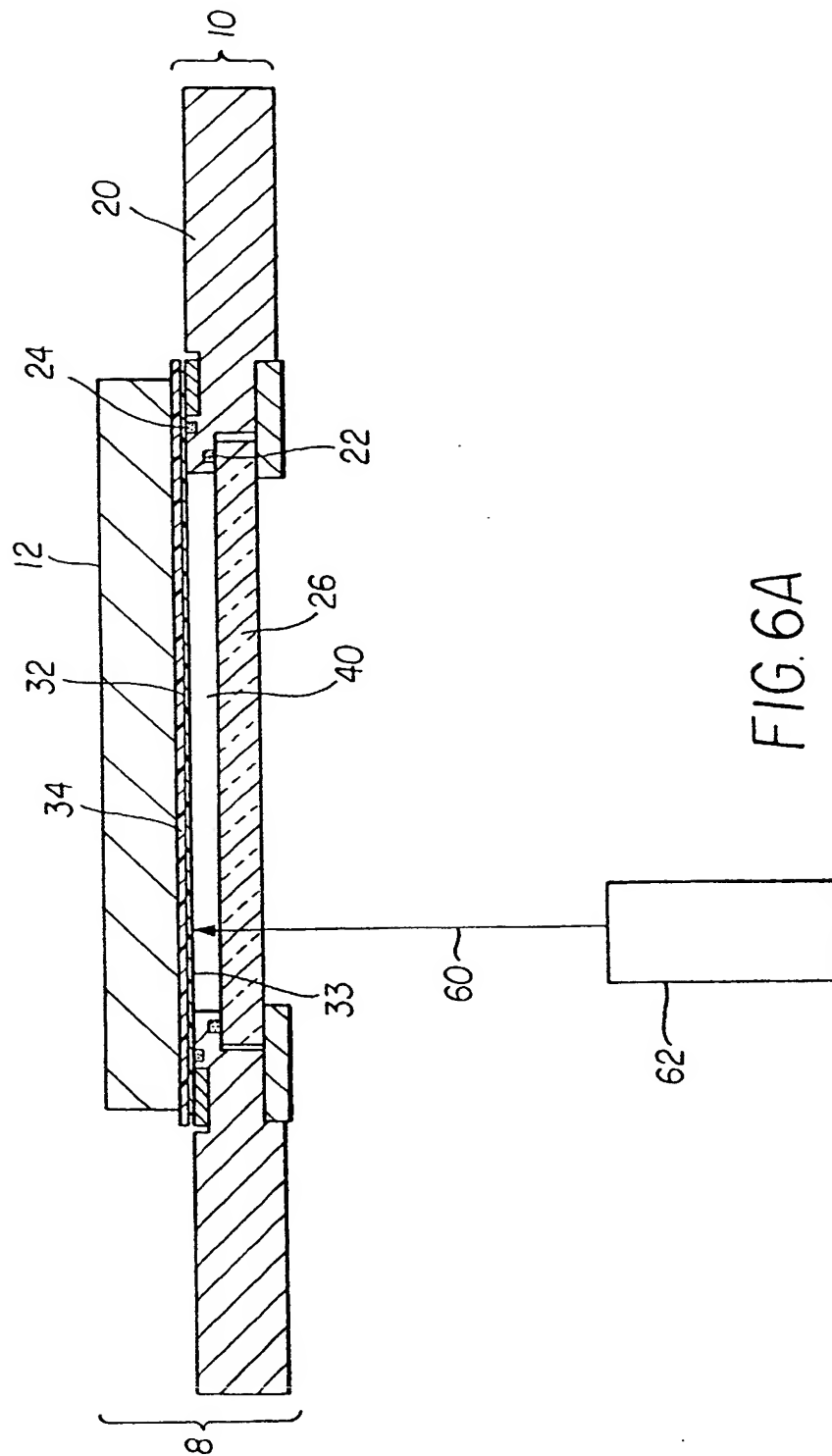


FIG. 6A

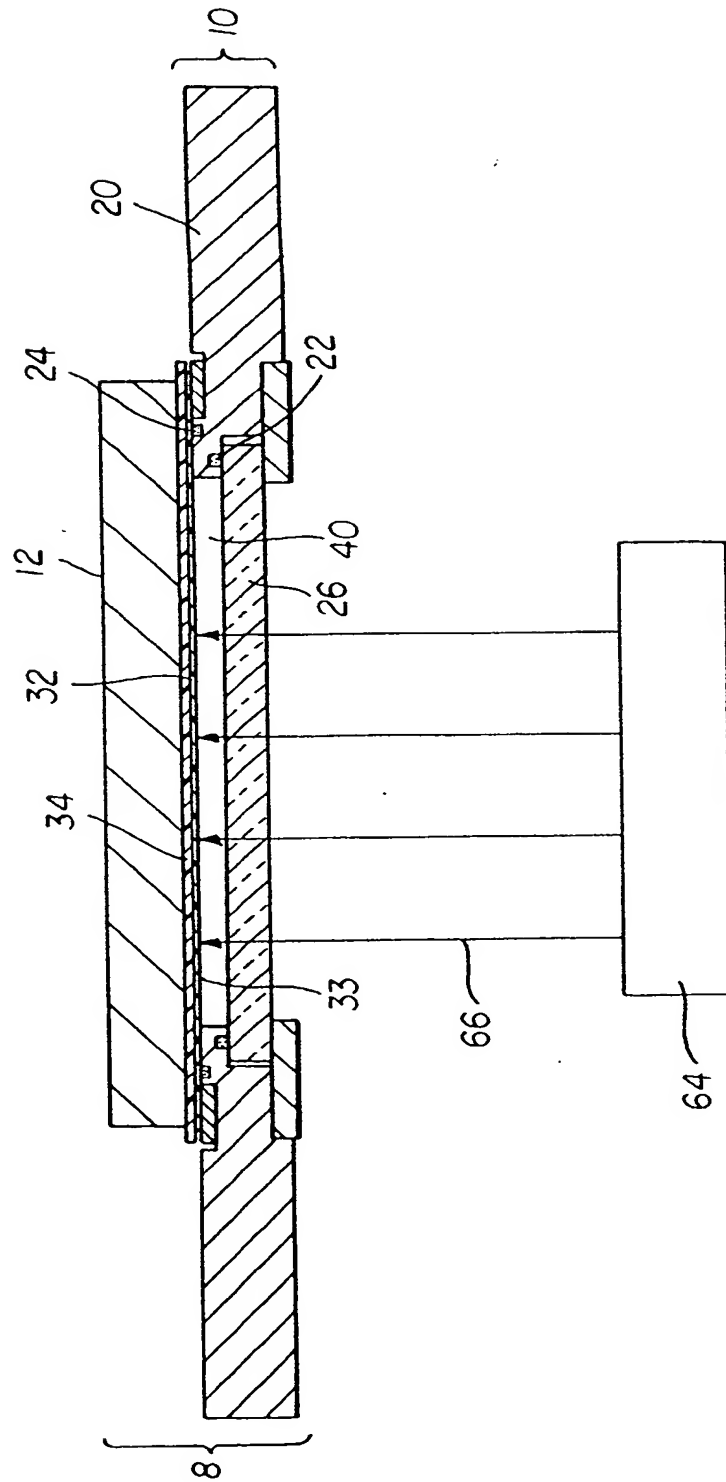


FIG. 6B

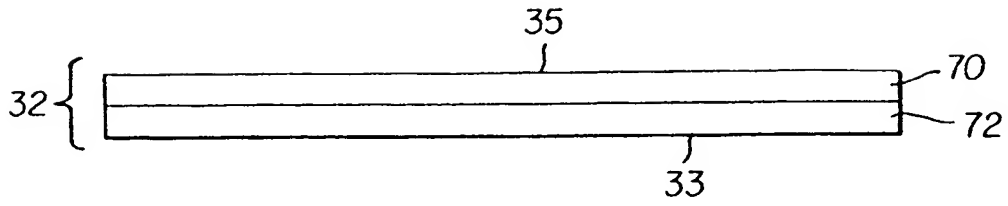


FIG. 7A

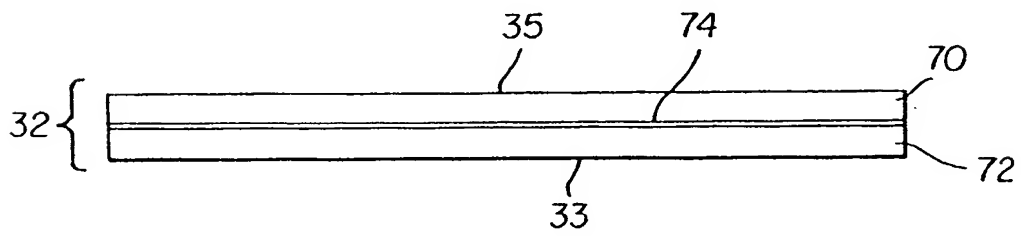


FIG. 7B

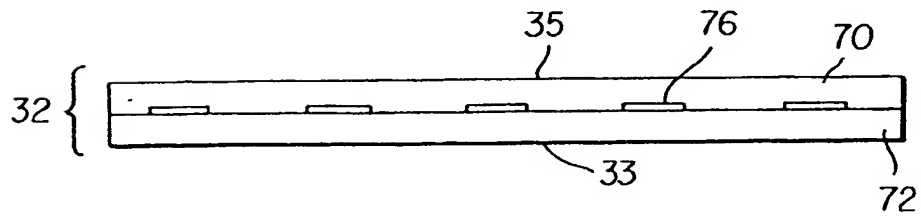


FIG. 7C

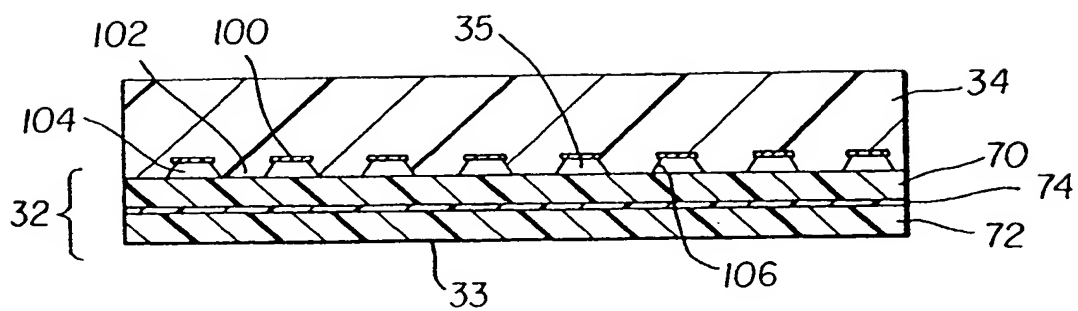


FIG. 8A

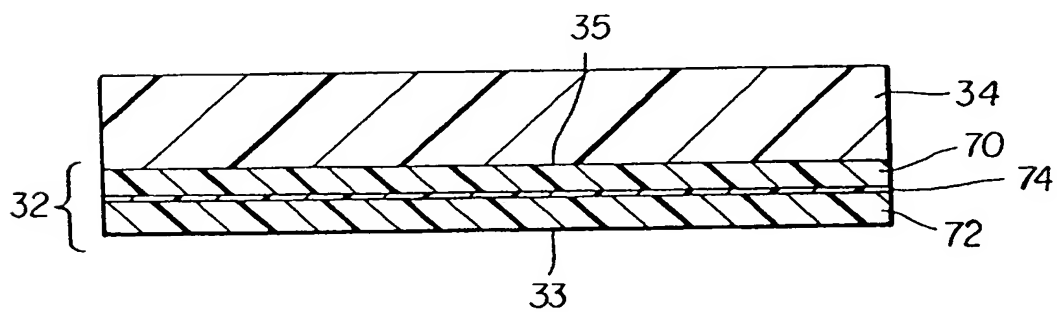


FIG. 8B

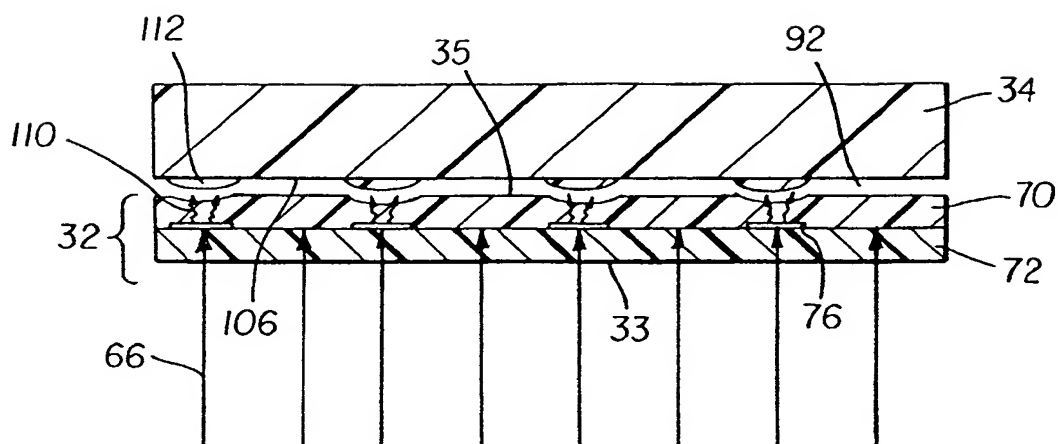


FIG. 9A

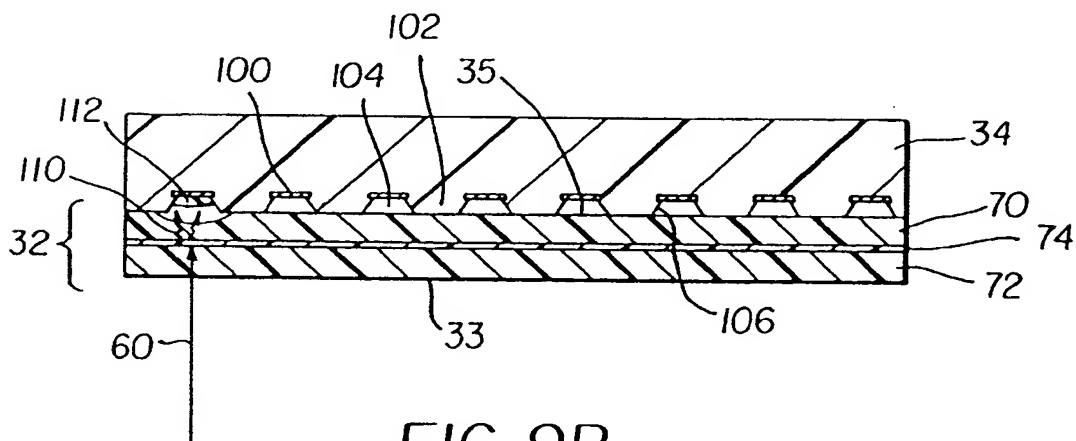


FIG. 9B

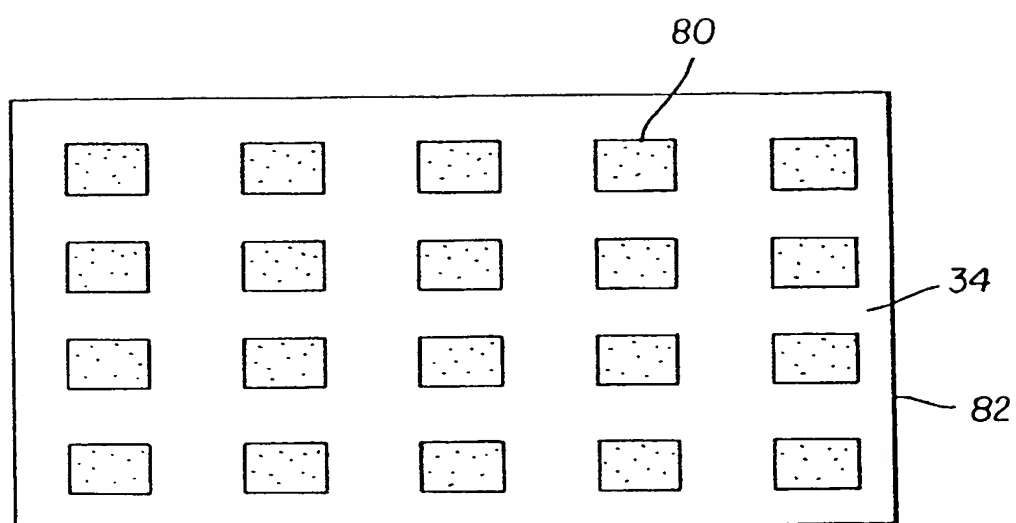


FIG. 10

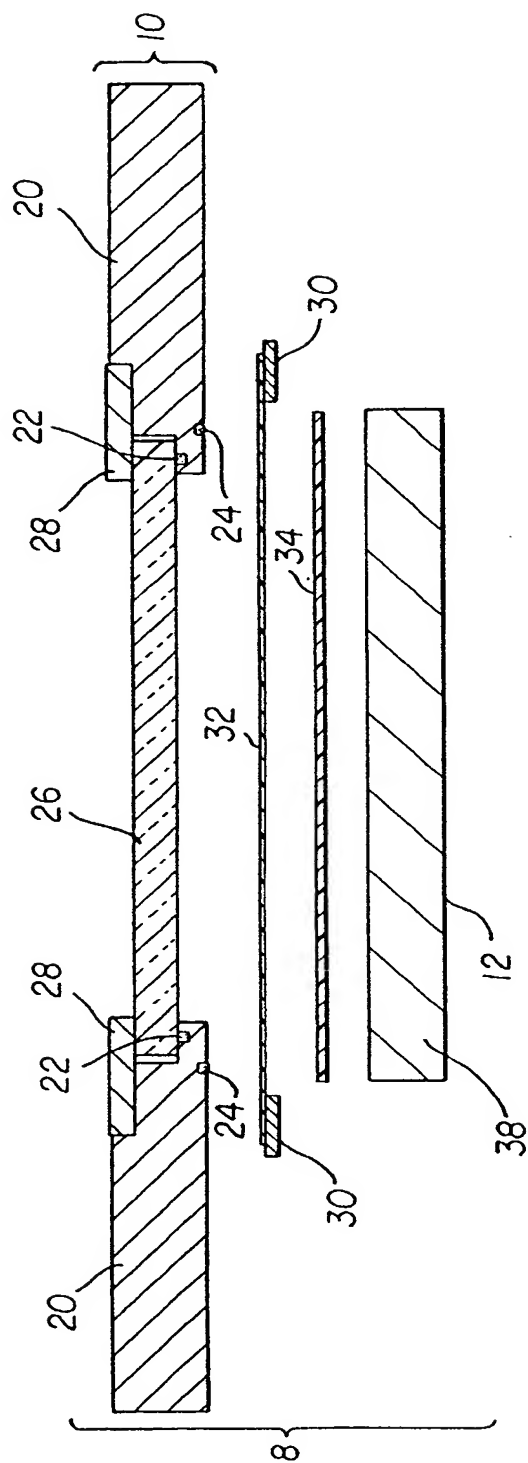


FIG. 11



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 07 9893

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 4 704 028 A (RICHARDS SR CHESTER L) 3 November 1987 (1987-11-03)	1,2,10	B41M5/035 G03B27/20
Y	* abstract; figure 1 *	3-9	
Y	EP 0 883 190 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 9 December 1998 (1998-12-09) * column 8, line 24 - line 30 *	3-9	
A	US 2001/036561 A1 (WOLK MARTIN B ET AL) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) * paragraph [0083]; examples 6-9 *	3-6	
A	US 5 904 961 A (MADATHIL JOSEPH K ET AL) 18 May 1999 (1999-05-18) * column 5, line 50 - line 65; figure 2B *	5,6,8	
A	US 3 007 390 A (GROSS MAYNARD C ET AL) 7 November 1961 (1961-11-07) * column 1, line 35 - line 39 *	1,3,8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B41M H01L B41C G03B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 1 April 2003	Examiner Pusch, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 02 (P04001)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

EP 1 321 303 A1

## ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 07 9893

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

01-04-2003

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4704028 A	03-11-1987	AT 62079 T	15-04-1991
		AU 577707 B2	29-09-1988
		AU 6043486 A	30-07-1987
		CA 1268652 A1	08-05-1990
		DE 3678424 D1	02-05-1991
		EP 0233977 A1	02-09-1987
EP 0883190 A	09-12-1998	US 5937272 A	10-08-1999
		EP 0883190 A2	09-12-1998
		JP 11054275 A	26-02-1999
US 2001036561 A1	01-11-2001	US 6221553 B1	24-04-2001
		US 6114088 A	05-09-2000
		US 2002172887 A1	21-11-2002
		AU 2723700 A	01-08-2000
		AU 4199799 A	01-08-2000
		CN 1337905 T	27-02-2002
		DE 69903978 D1	19-12-2002
		EP 1144197 A1	17-10-2001
		EP 1144198 A1	17-10-2001
		JP 2002534782 T	15-10-2002
		WO 0041893 A1	20-07-2000
		WO 0041892 A1	20-07-2000
		US 2002197554 A1	26-12-2002
		US 6194119 B1	27-02-2001
		US 6140009 A	31-10-2000
		US 6270944 B1	07-08-2001
		US 6214520 B1	10-04-2001
		US 6291116 B1	18-09-2001
		US 2001000744 A1	03-05-2001
		US 2002015907 A1	07-02-2002
US 5904961 A	18-05-1999	JP 10245547 A	14-09-1998
US 3007390 A	07-11-1961	NONE	

EPO FORM P0458

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82